(a) whether the Government of Orissa has sought the approval of the Union Government to form an international team of experts to study the cracks developed in the Hirakund Dam over river Mahanadi in Sambalpur district of Orissa; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. A proposal for the formation of an International Team of Experts to study the cracks developed in the Hirakund Dam over river Mahanadi in Sambalpur district of Orissa was received from Government of Orissa in November, 1990. The Government of Orissa has been requested to reconsider its proposal as Hirakund Dam Cracks Review Panel comprising of Indian Experts has already been constituted by them in August, 1990. Government of Orissa has not communicated its decision.

253

Blackmarketing and Hoarding of Fertilizers

5857. SHRI RABI RAY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether farmers at present are affected by hoarding and blackmarketing of fertilizers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps the Government have taken to ensure adequate supply of fertilizers to farmers at fair price?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (c). In pursuance of the Budget announcement, fertiliser prices were revised w.e.f. 25th July, 1991. The ensure that the benefit of the increased price was not cornered by traders, the Government announced that stocks held by retail dealers prior to the price revision Notification, would be sold at the pre-revised prices. This led to some complaints about hoarding and black marketing, especially from Andhra Pradesh.

The Government of India issued instructions to the State Governments/U.Ts to ensure the identification of retail stocks, and their sale at pre-revised prices. Subsequently, by its Notification date 14th August, 1991 further revising the fertiliser prices, the Government also instructed that stocks held by retailers or wholesalers other than manufacturers or pool handling agents, and acquired at pre-25th July, 1991 prices, shall be sold by at the pre-25th July, 1991 prices. The Government of India again issued detailed instructions to the State Governments/U.Ts to ensure the supply of these fertilisers to the farmers at the correct prices.

254

Quick Customer Service Centres of MTNL in Delhi

5858. SHRI PRATAPRAO B. BHONSLE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether M.T.N.L. has set up some Quick/Computerised Customer Service Centres in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the timings of these centres to deal with grievances of subscribers;

(d) whether the Government propose to set up such centres in Maharashtra; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. 18